Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* They have not yet reported.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know when the committee was appointed? I am not aware of the proceedings.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Some three weeks before.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: സംഖ്യ ലാപ്സായി പോകാതെ ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽതന്നെ ചിലവഴിച്ചുകൂടെ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർക്കുതന്നെ അറിയാം ഈ കണക്കുകമാസം അവസാനിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഇനി ഫ ഭ, ഫ ന ദിവസമേയുള്ളുവെന്നു്. നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ റിപ്പോട്ട്വന്നകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ സംഖ്യ ലാപ്സാകാതെ കഴിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ഈകൊല്ലം ലാപ്സാകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ഡറിലെങ്കിലും ഈ സംഖ്യ ചേർത്തുകൂടെ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ഫ ഫ ഫ വ-ലെ ബഡ്ഡറിൽ ചേർക്കുവാനുള്ള കാലംകഴിഞ്ഞു. എങ്കിലും വരുന്നകൊല്ലത്തിൽ വല്ല മാർഗ്ഗവുമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇതു് അഹിക്കുന്ന ഗൌരവം കൊടുക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കാം.

PRICE CONTROL ACTIVITIES—WITHDRAWAL OF CASES AGAINST MERCHANTS

13. Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) if it is a fact that Government withdrew some cases against certain merchants in connection with the price control activities;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this action?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

RAO BAHADUR M. NARAYANA MENON—RETIREMENT OF

14. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will Government be pleased to state whether Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon is continuing in Cochin State service from 15th June 1942 up to the end of his contractual period?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* He has been permitted to retire from service from the 20th of June 1942.

BANIAN TREE—CUTTING AND REMOVAL OF—IRINJALAKKUDA MUNICIPALITY

15. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state whether a resolution passed by the Irinjalakkuda Municipality for cutting and removing a banian tree standing in the main road to the east of the Koodalmanickam temple has been vetoed by Government?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know Sir, why the Government has interfered in the autonomous working of a department where the principle is that they have entrusted the management to them?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The tree is one which is being worshipped by the caste Hindus. The report was that the tree being in a dangerous condition, it should be removed immediately. The Government asked the Chief Engineer to inspect the actual position of the tree and submit a report. He inspected it personally and reported that the tree is not standing in any dangerous condition at all. Sufficient safeguards have also been taken now to see that no danger happens in future. Hence the cutting of the tree was not found necessary.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whenever a report is made by the Municipality or Town Council that a banian tree or some other tree is in a dangerous condition, it will be sent up to the Chief Engineer for report?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No. In this particular case there were a lot of complaints from the caste Hindus of the locality. It aroused religious feelings and many prominent people protested against the proposal of the Municipality. Government was therefore bound to enquire into the matter.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Does it mean that they are worshipping the banian tree?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They perform religious ceremonies like *vilakku veppu* etc., there.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: They have got religious ceremonies to be performed there, some deities are there and there is some sort of *paras* etc.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether when a banian tree or a pedestal connected with it is handed over to the Municipality, there is no question of religious or other ceremonies or anything of the kind?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Religious feelings were roused, as a matter of fact. You may question whether it is correct to have such feelings roused. It was really not essential to cut down that tree and Government ordered that the *status quo* will be maintained.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know that the report that the tree was in a dangerous condition was made after inspection by the Chairman of the municipality and by the executive officers of the municipality?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: A resolution passed by the municipality for cutting and removing the tree was received by Government. Complaints were also received at the same time protesting against that resolution. The Chief Engineer was therefore asked to go to the spot and examine the real condition of the tree. He submitted a report which shows that there is absolutely no danger.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether the person who reported that the tree was in a dangerous condition was taken to task for it?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: I don't think it is necessary.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Why should the municipality report to the government for the removal of a tree?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: The resolution passed by the municipality was forwarded to the Government alone with the minutes of the Council meeting. On receipt of the complaint, the municipality was requested to stay action.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The protest was sent both by telegram and by letter.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Does it mean that the Government will pay due regard to the religious feelings of all people in Cochin?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Yes. Always.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ ഈ റസല്യൂഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്നതു് ഒരു ഹിന്ദു മെമ്പറല്ലേ:

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: ആരാണു കൊണ്ടുവന്നതെന്നു് ഓർമ്മയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: പ്രൊസീഡിംഗ്സ് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിലേക്കയച്ചപ്പോൾ ഇന്ന ആളാണു് റസല്യൂഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്നതെന്നു് അതിൽ കാണിച്ചിട്ടില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: ഉവ്വു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: അതു് ഒരുഹിന്ദു മെമ്പറായിരുന്നില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: ആയിരിക്കും.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Are there other trees which are being worshipped by the people in other parts of the State?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Any number.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട മുനിസിപ്പൽ പ്രെയർമാൻ ഒരു ഹിന്ദുവല്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: അതെ.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ആ മുനിസിപ്പാലറ്റി പാസാക്കിയതല്ലേ ഇതു മരിച്ചുകളയണമെന്നു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. മാത്യു: അതെ.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether the Chairman is not a tamil brahmin?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Does he not belong to the class of persons who go and worship there?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: Yes, he is a caste-hindu.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: I would request the Government that the banian trees or other trees connected with worship of deities and so on are not handed over to the municipality, so that hereafter there will not be any trouble.

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